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Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force Panel Members

Washington (January 10, 2006) - The Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET) is providing scientific and engineering answers to questions about the performance of the New Orleans hurricane and flood protection system during Hurricane Katrina.

Although officially established on Oct. 10, 2005, by the Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the formation of IPET was initiated immediately after the hurricane and data collection efforts started in New Orleans in mid-September. The IPET is comprised of some of the nation's leading engineers and scientists from government (federal, state and local agencies), academia and private industry. These experts are using some of the most advanced scientific and engineering methods and tools in their comprehensive study.

The IPET team includes approximately 150 engineers, scientists, and other professionals, representing more than 35 independent organizations and 15 Corps offices.

The IPET includes 10 analysis teams; almost all are jointly co-lead by professionals from independent organizations and from the Corps. IPET leadership includes:

Project Director: Dr. Lewis E. (Ed) Link, Senior Fellow and Senior Research Engineer, University of Maryland

Technical Director: Dr. John J. Jaeger, Chief, Engineering and Construction Division, Huntington District, Corps of Engineers

Project Manager: Jeremy S. Stevenson, Civil Engineer, Huntington District, Corps of Engineers

Data Collection and Management – Perishable Data, Systems Data, and Information Management: Denise B. Martin, Computer Scientist, Engineer Research and Development Center, Corps of Engineers; Dr. Reed L. Mosher, Technical Director, Survivability and Protective Structures, Engineer Research and Development Center, Corps of Engineers

Geodetic Vertical and Water Level Datum Assessment: James K. Garster, Survey Engineer, Engineer Research and Development Center, Corps of Engineers; Dave Zilkowski, Director, National Geodetic Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Hurricane Surge and Wave Analysis: Bruce A. Ebersole, Chief, Flood and Storm Protection Division, Engineer Research and Development Center, Corps of Engineers; Dr. Joannes J. A. Westerink, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences, University of Notre Dame

Hydrodynamic Forces Analysis: Dr. Robert G. Dean, Graduate Research Professor, Civil and Coastal Engineering Department, University of Florida; Dr. Donald T. Resio, Senior Scientist, Engineer Research and Development Center, Corps of Engineers

Geotechnical Structure Performance Analysis: Dr. Michael K. Sharp, Technical Director, Civil Works Infrastructure, Engineer Research and Development Center, Corps of Engineers; Dr. Scott Steedman, Steedman, Ltd.

Floodwall and Levee Performance Analysis: Dr. James M. (Mike) Duncan, Director, Center for Geotechnical Practice and Research, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Dr. Reed L. Mosher, Technical Director, Survivability and Protective Structures, Engineer Research and Development Center, Corps of Engineers

Pumping Station Performance Analysis: W. R. (Bob) Howard Jr., Director of Operations, South Florida Water Management District; Brian L. Moentenich, Senior Mechanical Engineer, Hydroelectric Design Center, Portland District, Corps of Engineers

Interior Drainage/Flooding Analysis: Steve Fitzgerald, Chief Engineer, Harris County (Houston, Texas) Flood Control District; Jeff Harris, Chief, Hydrologic and Hydraulic Technology Division, Hydrologic Engineering Center, Corps of Engineers

Consequence Analysis: Dr. Patrick Canning, Senior Economist, Economic Research Service, Department of Agriculture; Dr. Dave A. Moser, Institute for Water Resources, Corps of Engineers

Risk and Reliability Analysis: Jerry L. Foster, President, Foster Engineering Services; Bruce Muller, Bureau of Reclamation

All releasable IPET documents, including design and construction records on the New Orleans hurricane protection system, are posted on the public Web site, <https://ipet.wes.army.mil>.

The IPET's final report will be completed June 1, 2006. Various interim reports will be released and posted on the IPET Web site as the data are validated and verified. IPET reports will be reviewed by an ASCE External Review Panel. The National Academies has also assembled a multidisciplinary, independent panel of acknowledged experts to review and synthesize the IPET and ASCE efforts. The National Academies panel will report its findings in the summer of 2006. All of these reports will be released to the public.